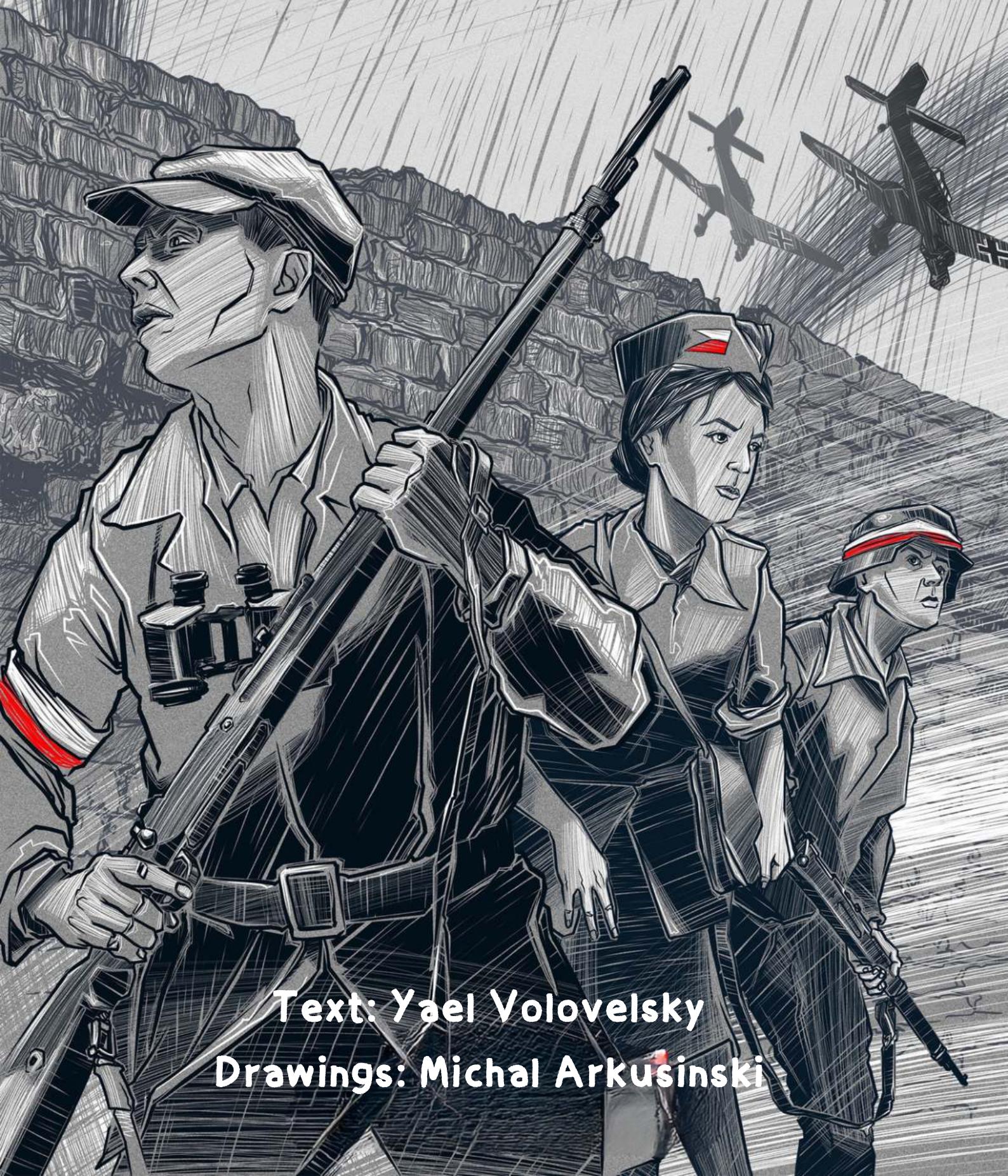


THE BATTLE FOR HOPE

Polish Jews in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising



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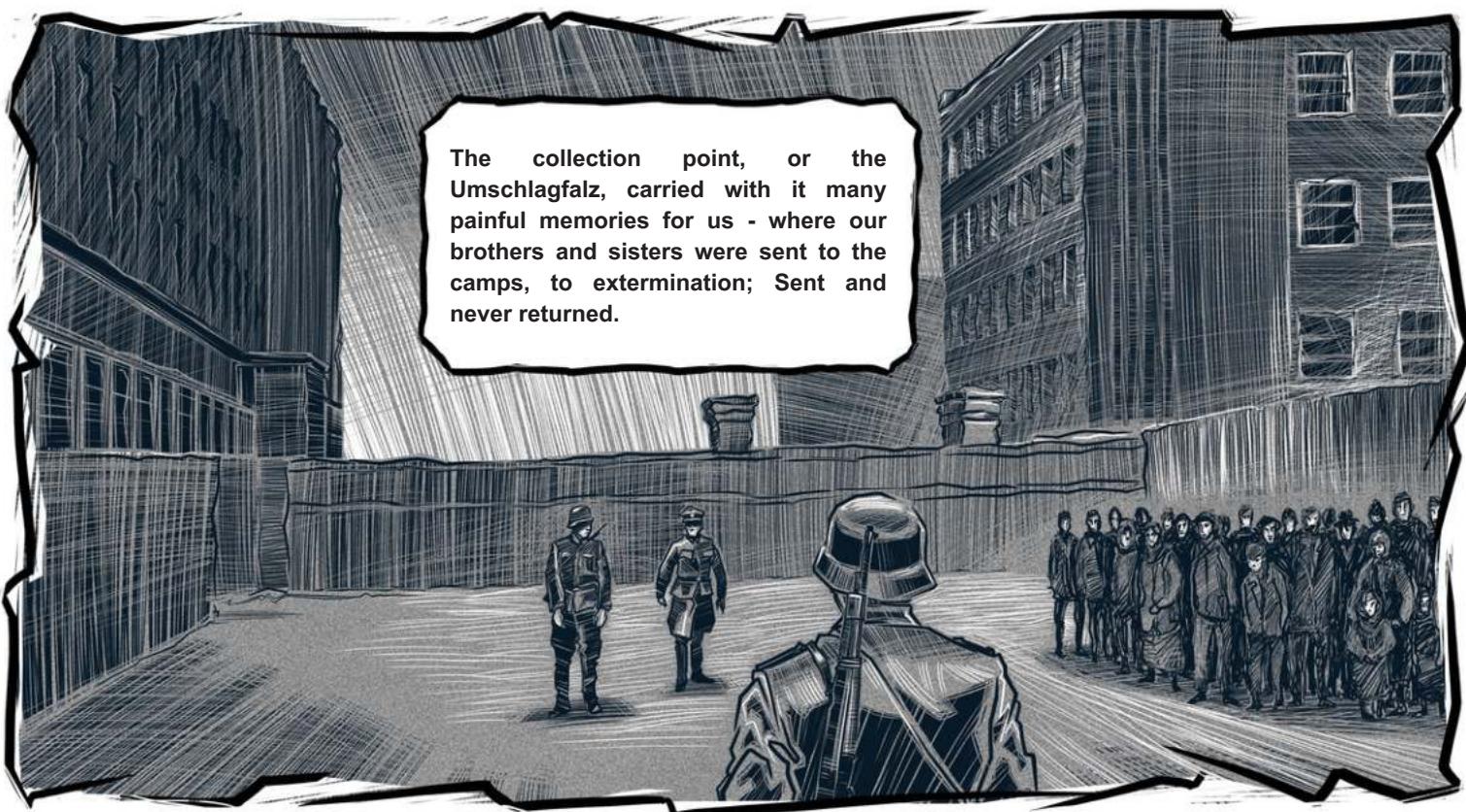


Our story did not begin with the Warsaw Uprising, it began much earlier - almost 5 years of the German occupation of Poland, imprisonment in ghettos, transfers to the extermination camps, and the Uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto. In the days before the Uprising broke out, there were only a few of us who survived in the city and managed to hide. But as long as we have the strength to fight for our homeland, our strength will not end. In the summer of 1944, the Red Army was closer than ever to taking over the city from the Nazis, and we, Jewish and Polish fighters, decided to launch our own attack.



Warsaw, our mighty capital, was still standing, only the ruins of the ghetto were a painful reminder of our struggle. Jewish fighters who managed to escape from the extermination camps and save themselves in hiding joined the Polish underground.





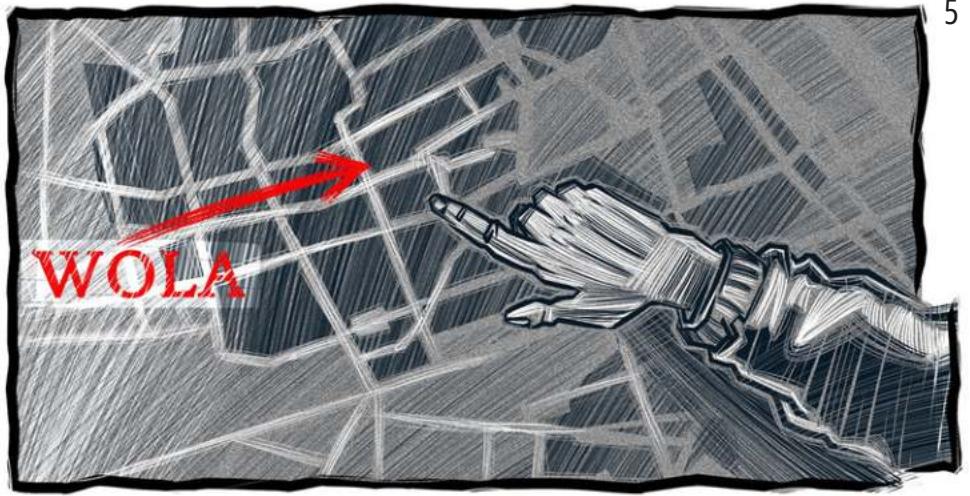
The soldiers in the battalion were a mix of partly trained and experienced fighters, mostly young. For many, it was the first time they had taken up arms, but they joined the ranks of the insurgents with determination. The battle was tough, with the Germans firing at us from the rooftops, trying to stop our advance. Despite this, we fought with unwavering resolve to complete our mission. When the uprising was officially launched, we began our march towards the Umschlagplatz.



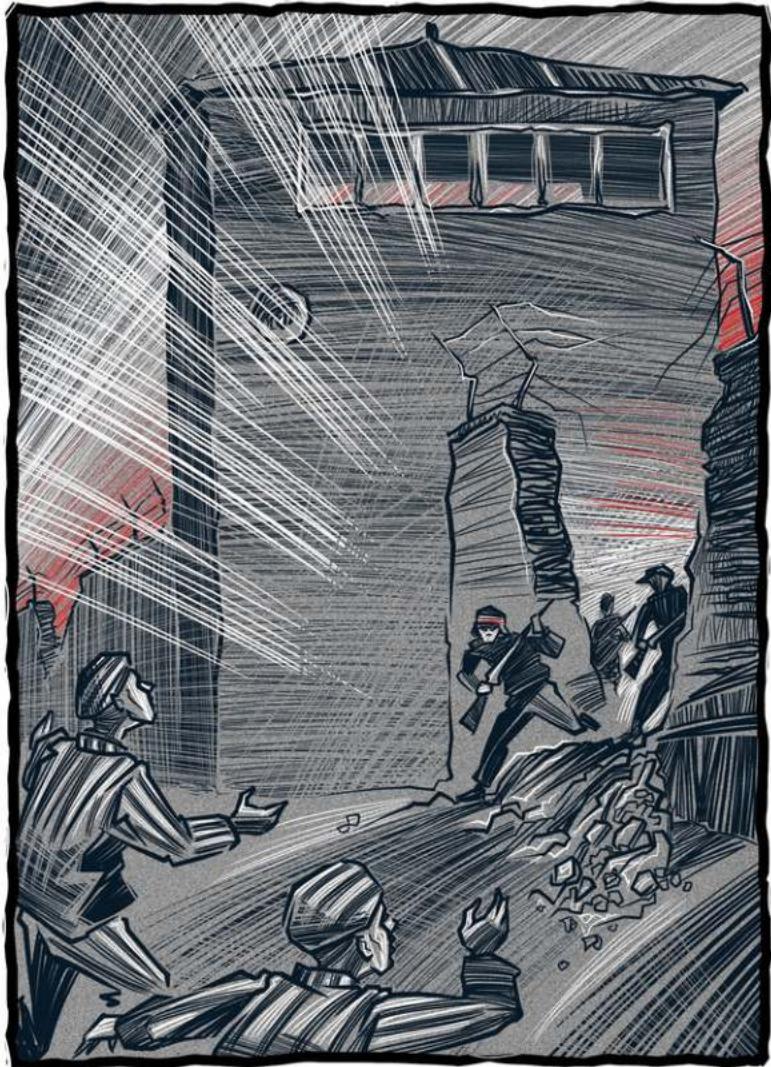
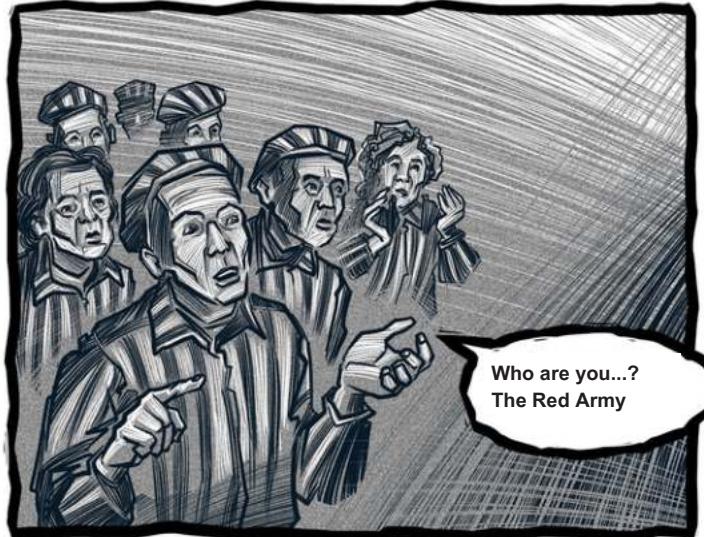


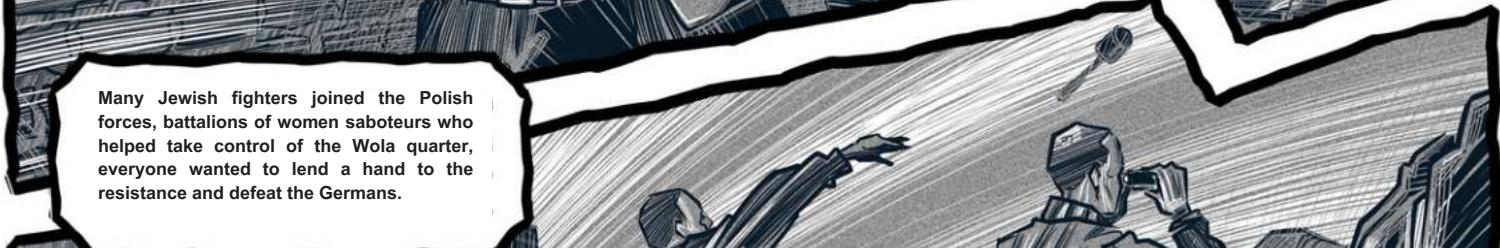
Within a few hours, we managed to take control of the Waffen SS headquarters. The surviving Nazis fled through the ruins of the ghetto, and we secured the food and uniform supplies the Germans had stored at the Umschlagplatz.

A number of Jewish fighters who survived the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising or survived in hiding joined the uprising from the very beginning. From the moment the Umschlagfelz was in our hands, we began to advance towards Wola, and on August 5, four days after the start of the uprising, we managed to breach the walls of the Gęsiówka concentration camp, which was built on the ruins of the Jewish ghetto.



With a combined force, both Polish and Jewish fighters, we freed the 348 Hungarian and Greek Jewish prisoners who were in the camp, and were amazed to find that they were prepared for battle and ready to join our struggle.







The battles grew increasingly difficult. Although our forces managed to gain control of large parts of the city, the expected aid never arrived.

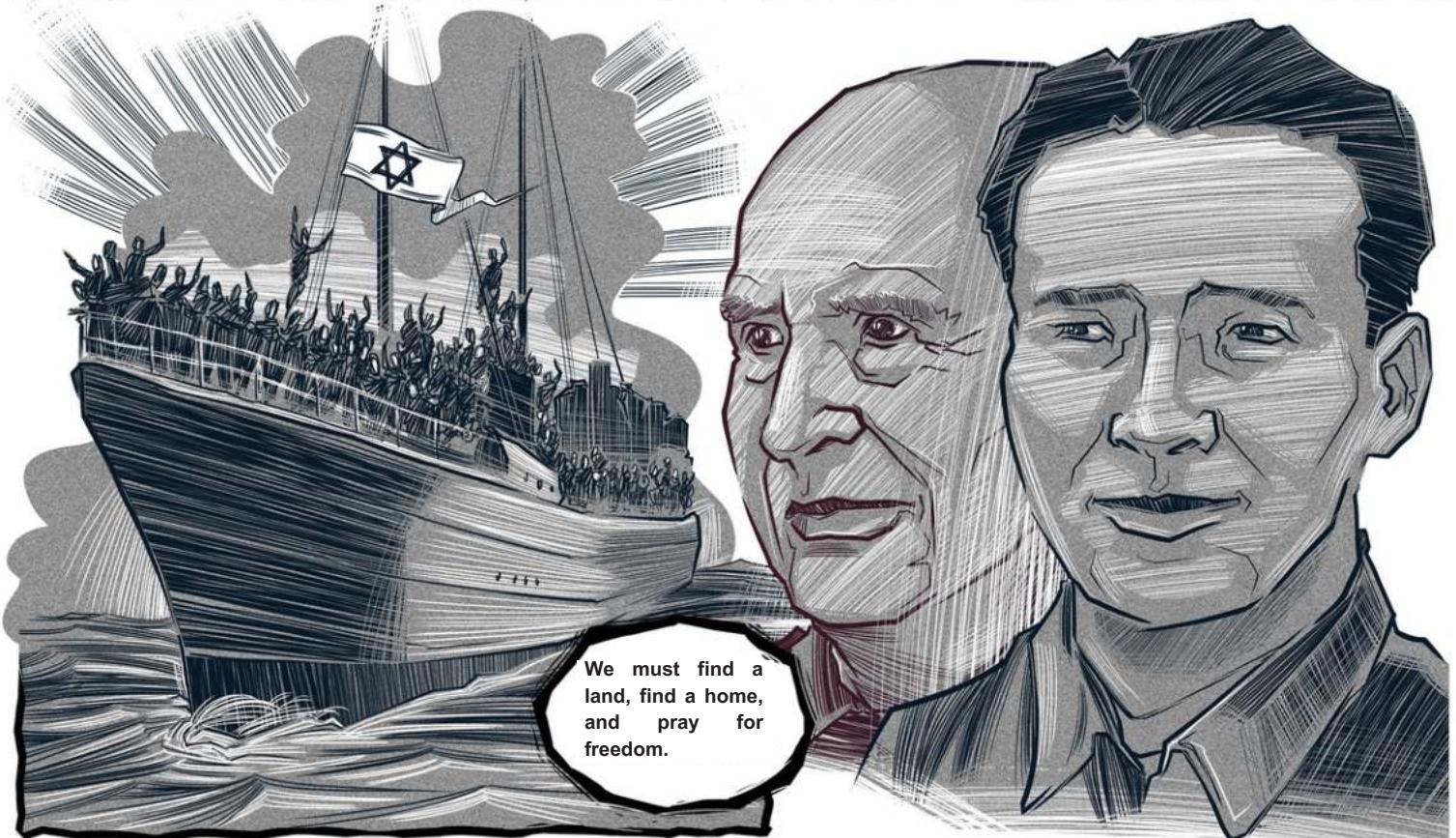
We were left to face the Nazi enemy alone, who was stronger and better armed than we were.

The losses among our fighters were heavy, but the civilian casualties were even greater.

Tens of thousands lost their lives in the struggle to reclaim the city, and hundreds of thousands were killed by the enemy.



On October 2nd, we surrendered. The Germans, aware that the Red Army was on the outskirts of Warsaw, expelled all the citizens and destroyed most of the city. It was only when the Red Army took control that we knew the Nazis would not return. However, we also knew we couldn't go back. Poland fell under communist rule, and many of the surviving insurgents were arrested, while others continued to flee. Some of us returned to the destroyed city, while others journeyed across the sea to Palestine, hoping for a future of freedom and peace.





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